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**ROSEVILLE MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSING
METHAMPHETAMINE, FIREARMS, AND STOLEN CREDIT CARDS**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and United States Secret Service Resident Agent-in-Charge Brady J. Mills announced today that TIMOTHY TIPTON, 39, of Roseville, California, was indicted yesterday with possessing methamphetamine for sale, being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition, possessing more than 15 unauthorized credit cards and possessing device-making equipment. He was arraigned on the indictment today before United States Magistrate Judge Dale A. Drozd and pled not guilty.

This case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the Roseville Police Department and the United States Secret Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Robin R. Taylor, of the Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property (CHIP) Unit, who is prosecuting the case, the investigation began on November 1, 2005 when the Roseville Police Department arrested TIPTON outside a Marriott Residence Inn in Roseville. After arresting TIPTON for being under the influence of a controlled substance, the detectives recovered more than 50 grams of methamphetamine, two firearms (including a 9mm Glock semi-automatic handgun, loaded with ammunition, and a .357 caliber Smith & Wesson revolver, also loaded with ammunition) from his car. The detectives also recovered numerous fraudulently-obtained credit cards and counterfeited drivers' licenses bearing his photo, but in names other than the defendant's.

Additionally, the detectives seized an electronic card encoder, a Fargo electronic card printer, and "tipping foil," which is used to make fraudulent credit cards.

TIPTON, who was initially charged by a criminal complaint, made his initial appearance on November 17, 2005 before United States Magistrate Judge Dale A. Drozd and was denied bail. His next scheduled court appearance is January 4, 2006.

TIPTON faces a mandatory minimum of 10 years to life in prison and a \$4 million dollar fine for the narcotics offense. Additionally, he faces a maximum of 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for the other offenses.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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